

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 22 | Humidity 46%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 72,643 | Nifty 22,023 | Gold 65,545 | Silver 75,670 | Dollar 82.89 | Euro 90.31 | GBP 105.53



‘Why BBMP should rethink plan to microchip stray dogs spending Rs 3.8 crore, geotag them instead’

CIVIC BODY BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE?

No suitable locations found for ABC centres yet

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's animal husbandry department failing to find suitable locations for operating animal birth control (ABC) centres at Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones, many animal activists in the city believe that community health is at serious risk as around 60% of stray dogs in these zones are yet to be neutered or castrated.

Ironically, the BBMP authorities have been evincing a keen interest to implement a Rs 3.8-crore project and procure 1.8 lakh microchips and 80 microchip readers for the strays. Animal activists are of the view that the BBMP animal husbandry department officials should have taken measures to implement the ABC programme in Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones without delay because the more the delay the more the number of stray dogs.

The activists said the ABC

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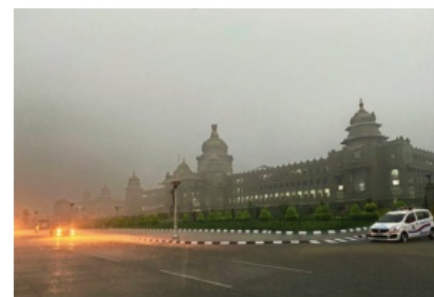


“This is in complete violation of the Supreme Court's orders, AWBI guidelines and directives

— Animal activist

How city fared in air quality this winter

Bengaluru registered a decrease in winter PM2.5 concentration by 7%



I Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

This winter season, Bengaluru's average PM2.5 concentration yet again exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) standards.

While NAAQS's prescribed limit of average PM2.5 concentration is 40µg/m3, Bengaluru registered a winter average of 41.3µg/m3.

The analysis of air quality data from the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) between October 2023 and January 2024 conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi showed the city's average concentration of this harmful pollutant was much higher than some other major cities in South India. Chennai recorded a winter average of 36.5 µg/m3; in Thiruvananthapuram, the average concentration of PM2.5 was 29.5 µg/m3.

The peak value of PM2.5 concentration in the given period in Bengaluru was 92µg/m3.

Vehicular emission, according to experts, is the biggest contributor of particulate matter in the environment. They said while the number of vehicles on Bengaluru's roads is increasing exponentially, the average speed is decreasing, leading to traffic stagnation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO



01 Water-free Holi

With a splash of colours, a dash of entertainment and curated gourmet, celebrate 'Phoolon-wali' Holi at Leela Palace. Enjoy a special live performance by leading Indian pop band - Best Kept Secret. **When:** March 25, 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Where: Leela Palace; Reserve at: +918951974424



02 Think and inspire

Join the tenth anniversary screening of "Five Films For Freedom", an event celebrating diverse perspectives and voices through a collection of powerful short films. These films explore themes of equality, freedom, and human rights, offering poignant narratives that inspire and provoke thought. **When:** March 22, 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm
Where: Five Films For Freedom, Sandbox Collective, 345, Cooke Town

03 Circus is back in town

Reminisce your childhood through a nostalgic walk down memory lane infused with a modern touch with a spectacular new show at the Olympic Circus. Witness the spectacular stunts from international acrobats and gymnasts that will blow you away.



When: March 15 to 31; **Where:** Family Fun Fair



Celebrating Appu's birthday with a good deed

Lions Rakta Kendra and Lions Club Bangalore Annapurna Babusapalya organised a blood donation camp as part of Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar's birthday celebrations at Horamavu flyover junction on Sunday

Double-edged situation for revenue site holders

Road connectivity at KG Layout comes with land loss for some

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

There is good and bad news for revenue site holders and for those who bought sites at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. The good news is that there will be no hassles for the continuation of roads connecting various blocks of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. The bad news is that the holders of General Power of Attorney (GPA) and agreements will not only lose their revenue sites but are also ineligible for alternative sites to be allocated by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

It is said that there are many layouts developed on the revenue land in and around Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. The BDA was supposed to acquire these revenue layouts to ensure connectivity of roads in the layout but was delayed due to a writ petition (1783/2014) in the High Court, which directed the revenue site owners to register themselves with the BDA for allotment of alternative sites within three months under the BDA (Allotment of Sites) Rules, 1984. However, payment of the initial deposit by the revenue site holders is exempt.

The BDA would treat the applicants as being entitled to pri-



File photo of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

ority allotment and allot each of them a site measuring 30x40 sq ft in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout, with prevailing allotment prices subject to the applicants satisfying the dual requirements of allotment under the rule that they must be residents of Bengaluru for 10 years and should not be owning any residential property in the city. Filled application forms, along with other documents, can be submitted at the BDA head office from March 22 to May 23.

Those who have bought revenue sites and are yet to register those sites on their names will not benefit despite the decision of the BDA to ensure road connectivity from one block to the

“ More continuity and connectivity issues will end in a few days when the land is acquired

— Surya Kiran, spokesperson, KG Layout Open Forum

next at Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. In response to this, a revenue site holder questioned, "Thousands of people bought sites at revenue layouts with their hard-earned money. Who will compensate if they lose their sites to the BDA?"

Prashanth of Bheemakuppe, whose father owns two revenue sites, said the BDA has to avoid acquiring revenue layouts for the

benefit of those who spent their entire savings to buy revenue sites. "I do know the fate of my father's sites. The BDA is yet to issue a notice to us," Prashanth said.

Meanwhile, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum spokesperson Surya Kiran has said that the 300-acre revenue layout land acquisition that has been pending since 2010 due to a compensation issue will be resolved as per the High Court's direction. "More continuity and connectivity issues will end in a few days when the land is acquired and parts of the layout and infrastructure-related works will be completed in those areas," said Surya Kiran.

Parking loss at Baiyappanahalli metro station

Commuters shocked at finding parking facility shut down all of a sudden; contractor packed off as they were making losses

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Parking at the Baiyappanahalli metro station has been shut down as the contractor responsible to keep oversight of the facility has left the premises citing losses. Since the inauguration of operations beyond Baiyappanahalli on the Purple Line, stretching Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) services till Whitefield, the Baiyappanahalli metro station has seen a reduction in daily foot-fall, leading to losses for the parking contractor.

With no parking space available, commuters who use the Baiyappanahalli metro station and rely on their personal vehicles for first and last mile connectivity have complained of the lack of parking facilities causing much inconvenience. What has left them angry is the lack of an explanation too.

The parking lot gate has been locked shut with a board written 'parking is temporarily closed' written on it. The issue has remained the same since the past week.

"Why is the parking lot closed at Baiyappanahalli for so many days? No notice on the gate to tell us



The parking lot gate at Baiyappanahalli is shut and a notice that 'parking is temporarily closed' is all commuters get as explanation

puzzled and waiting outside the gates," Pranav called out the corporation on X (formerly Twitter). "Could you please comment on this? Still no update from anyone and just us commuters facing hardships. Just makes public transit look bad in comparison to other modes of travel," he added.

The Baiyappanahalli metro station is home to one of the biggest parking spaces made for metro commuters, with the ability to hold 280 two-wheelers, 25 cars and 10 cycles. Since the BMRCL began their operations in 2011, many commuters used to park their personal vehicles



at the Baiyappanahalli metro and take public transport or their office vehicle to reach their work spaces in nearby vicinities such as KR Pura. However, metro services were extended to Whitefield last year, and a connection was made between Baiyappanahalli and KR Pura, reducing the number of users at the Baiyappanahalli station. Now, commuters park at metro stations that are close to their house, resulting in a 70% decrease for the parking contractor's business. BMRCL said that a new contract has already been issued and the operation will be restored shortly.

when it's gonna open either. Causing a lot of inconvenience to a lot of commuters," Pranav Balakrishnan, a citizen. OfficialBMRCL it's been almost a week, not even a WORD on what's going on here. Your PR department needs a serious overhaul. Saw so many two wheelers and cyclists

Airport Road particularly deadly

Within just two months of 2024, the city has witnessed a staggering total of 865 reported accidents, claiming the lives of 172 individuals.

The North division emerges as the epicentre of this crisis, reporting the highest number of accidents at 253, resulting in 64 fatalities. Following closely behind is the North East sub-division with 157 accidents and 42 casualties. The South division, too, bears a significant burden with 223 accidents and 42 lives lost.

Several specific areas within the city have become hotspots for accidents. The International Airport Road recorded 47 accidents, while KR Puram and Yelahanka each reported 47 and 39 accidents, respectively. Kengeri and Kamakshipalya have seen 37 and 35 accidents, respectively, in just two months. Byatarayanapura, Electronic City, Basavanagudi, and Whitefield are among the areas grappling with their share of accidents, each recording figures ranging from 29 to 34.

The gravity of the situation becomes even more evident when analysing the casualty figures by location. International Airport Road tops the list with 17 fatalities, closely followed by Electronic City with 14 lives lost. Yelahanka and Kengeri witnessed 10 and 11 deaths, respectively, highlighting the terrible condition of Bengaluru road safety.

Ahna Prakash

BM Finance Fundas



Home loan rates are lower compared to 2023 levels where they had started touching 9%. The lowest home loan rates now are in the 8.30 range

Check RBI's latest FAQs on use of credit cards

Using a credit card can help you improve your financial situation and develop better money management skills. Just utilise your credit cards to pay your expenses and make sure you pay off your credit card debt on time to raise your credit score.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has amended certain provisions which came into effect from March 07, 2024. The RBI has also released latest FAQs related to credit Card and debit Card issuance.

Can a card-issuer allow a credit card to be used beyond the sanctioned credit limit and charge overlimit fees?

According to the RBI FAQs, "Usage of a credit card beyond the sanctioned credit limit (i.e., overlimit) requires prior explicit consent of the cardholder, as a fraud minimisation mechanism. Further, a cardholder shall be given an option to enable or disable the option of overlimit through transaction control mechanism available on



card-issuer's platforms such as internet, mobile banking, or any other suitable medium. Unless explicit consent has been obtained from the cardholder for the overlimit facility, no overlimit can either be provided or overlimit charges be levied."

Here are some important FAQs on Master Direction (MD) - Credit Card and Debit Card - Issuance and Conduct Directions, 2022

What should one do if a credit card is issued without one's consent (unsolicited card)?

Card issuers are prohibited from issuing unsolicited credit cards and are required to seek prior and explicit consent from the customer before issuing a card. However, if the customer receives an unsolicited card, he/she should refrain from activating or providing consent for activation of card through OTP or any other means. If no consent is received for activating the card, the card-issuer is required to close the credit card account without any cost to the customer within seven working days from the date of seeking confirmation

from the customer and shall also intimate the customer that the credit card account has been closed. Subsequent to receiving the intimation from the card-issuer that the card account has been closed, the customer shall destroy the card. Further, the customer may file a complaint with the card-issuer against the issuance of unsolicited card and escalate it to the RBI Ombudsman.

Can a card be issued to other loan accounts such as overdraft facility, cash credit facility, working capital loan, etc.?

Yes, paragraphs 7(b) and 7(c) of the MD have enabled issuance of various types of credit cards which can be customized to access the limits available in different loan accounts, duly aligned to the terms and conditions stipulated for the concerned loan account. For example, a customer availing an overdraft facility from a bank can be issued a type of credit card to access the funds available under the facility. The terms

of usage of this credit card (interest charged, repayment schedule, penalty, cash withdrawal limit etc.,) shall correspond to the terms and conditions applicable to the overdraft facility.

What can be considered as activation of credit card?

Customer-initiated process indicating intent to use a credit

card such as PIN generation, modification of transaction control, Interactive Voice Response, recorded call to the customer care centre and SMS may be considered as activation. However, if the card is not activated by the cardholder for more than 30 days from the date of issuance, card-issuers shall seek One Time Password (OTP) based consent.

Sneha Kulkarni, ET Online

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More flyovers, make them double-deckers

BMRCCL issues tenders to assess feasibility of making double-decker flyovers on 3 stretches: JP Nagar-Hebbal; Hosahalli-Kadabagere; Sarjapur-Iblur

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The city's first double-decker flyover, spanning 3.35 km from Ragi Gudda to Central Silk Board on the RV Road-Bommasandra Metro stretch, is nearing completion and may soon be open to traffic. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had recently announced that the upcoming Metro projects will be double-decker, so it remains to be seen how many more double-decker flyovers the city will receive. According to sources, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCCL) has issued tenders to assess the feasibility of constructing double-decker flyovers on three stretches: JP Nagar-Hebbal via Goraguntepalya (29.20 km), Hosahalli to Kadabagere on Magadi Road (11.45 km), and Sarjapur to Iblur (14 km), as a part of phase three. These stretches total 54.65 km and could accommodate double-decker structures.

An official feasibility study is underway for constructing a double-decker structure where the surface road will serve local traffic, the first level will be for vehicles, and the second level will host Metro tracks. The state cabinet recently approved the third phase of works, estimated to cost Rs 15,611 crore.

A BMRCCL official said that they are constructing Metro corridors for the Yellow Line from RV Road to Bommasandra (Electronic City Metro) and the Blue Line from Central Silk Board (CSB) to KR Puram station (Outer Ring Road Metro), extending further towards the airport. A double-decker flyover will be built from Ragi Gudda to CSB, accommodating motor vehicles on the first level and



Solid slab work in progress at Central Silk Board junction

Metro trains on the second level. "The CSB metro station on Outer Ring Road (ORR) is planned as an interchange for these lines through a Skywalk with travelators. The CSB junction is the busiest junction in Bengaluru, intersecting the ORR to the east and west and Hosur Road to the north and south. The large volume of vehicular movement at this junction creates a bottleneck. Additionally, BMRCCL is constructing a Metro cum elevated road from Ragi Gudda to CSB with five ramps at CSB Junction to ease traffic congestion. The construction of loops and ramps is being executed by Afcons Infrastructure Limited," he added.

As per the construction plan, vehicle users coming from Ragi Gudda side using the double-decker road-cum-Metro of the Yellow Line will reach Hosur Road through ramp-A, HSR Layout through ramp-C, and

The construction involved meticulous design. Ramps D and E are expected to be ready by December

— A Metro official

ramp-B connects a ramp from the BTM to access the ORR and Hosur Road. Those coming from HSR Layout can reach Ragi Gudda through ramp-D, which runs above ramp-A and the R5 metro line, and then continue down ramp-E to access the BTM layout. Both ramps A and B merge and run continuously over the existing Madiwala flyover across the busiest National Highway-44. This structure, featuring four continuous solid slabs, each spanning 31m, with a width of 15.1m and a curvature radius of 52m, stands as a testament to Bengaluru's innovative

infrastructure.

About the process, a Metro official said that the dedicated construction team worked tirelessly round the clock, ensuring high standards of safety, quality, and overall project efficiency to materialise this construction marvel, a first-of-its-kind solid slab in Bengaluru. The construction involved meticulous design with M60 grade concrete of 2520cum, and pouring concrete demanded 50 consecutive hours without disturbing live traffic underneath. "Sourcing of concrete is planned from three batching plants with an additional standby fourth batching plant. The first level of the road flyover is already constructed for the Reach-5 line from Ragi Gudda to CSB junction, and A, B, and C ramps will be commissioned by May 2024, while D and E ramps are expected to be ready by December end," he added.

App that outs city's black spots

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the last three months, citizens have been using the Namma Clean Bengaluru platform that helps them alert the BBMP about garbage dumping points. The change is for all to see as the officials ensure that the spaces are cleaned up.

This initiative by Jhatkaa.org was launched in May 2023 and more than 300 reports have been submitted by the citizens using the tool since then. Additionally, 50 citizens have taken the initiative to engage with BBMP officials to address the issue and create clean spaces by involving other residents and communities.

In the last three months, residents of BTM Layout, JP Nagar, Jayanagar, North Main Road, Yelahanka, HRBR Layout and Indira Nagar have been reporting garbage dumps to the BBMP officials of their area using the tool. Five spots have

been cleaned in the BTM wards, while many others are a work in progress.

Chiku Agarwal, a resident of BTM Layout and Senior Engagement Associate at Jhatkaa.org, said, "BTM Layout has seen a drastic change due to the BBMP officials Surya and Sharan. Five spots were cleared and also beautified with rangoli and potted plants. BBMP officials also patrolled the cleared sites until late at night. At BTM Layout, it took only six citizens to come together and create the change they wanted to make."

Surya, Junior Health Inspector BBMP, said, "In a particular block, there is an auto tipper to collect segregated garbage (Wet and dry). Auto tippers arrive in the block, starting 7 am to 10.15 am. They have 15 minutes in each cross, where one auto tipper collects from 650 to 700 households. Main challenge is time management."

The tool aims to attain zero dump spots by making the reporting of these black spots to the BBMP authorities easier. It also allows residents

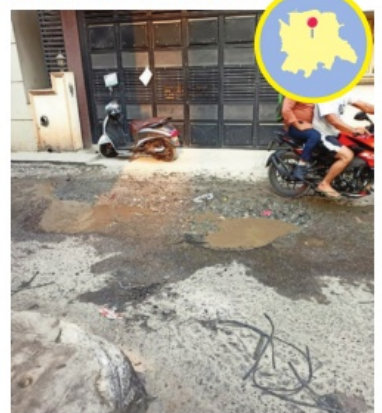


to initiate dialogue with ward marshals, Junior Health Inspectors and Assistant Executive Engineers to ensure that the cleared sites are not littered. Chiku added that collective action was the need of the hour for the garbage mismanagement in the city.

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9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Narrow path Nobert Church Road



Most parts of this road are in bad condition throughout the year, filled with potholes. Residents are requesting BBMP for a solution or a reason for the narrowing state of the road as it connects Hosur Road and Sarjapur road.

Fix the road Sarjapur



Authorities are negligent regarding the damaged Sarjapur Road next to Carmelaram railway flyover. With substandard tarring, it is going to be a death trap.

Deserted car Frazer Town



This car has now been lying on Stephens Road for a couple of months. Officials must take action to get it removed.

Take a seat, face each other on suburban rail trains

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

K-RIDE plans to have unique seating arrangements for its Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) trains. Though the rakes will be similar to that of Namma Metro, the suburban rail trains are planned to have seats facing each other.

The positioning will be similar to the familiar seating arrangements in railway trains. While the seats in the metro are positioned against the wall of the metro, these seats would be facing away from the wall and arranged towards each other. With two seats facing each side, the four seats will

form a cabin system.

K-RIDE officials told BM that they are considering this model as the metro seats against the wall of the train cause discomfort during braking. "The rakes will be different from the metro in seating arrangements. We are planning a system where seats would face each other and not against the wall. This system would allow a better travelling experience and reduce shaking. The measure would also reduce discomfort to passengers during braking. It would also help the passengers interact with each other. However, the plans are still in their nascent stage," said the official.

With BSRP expecting passengers travelling long distances and air travellers, the measures are also expected to make more luggage space under the



Seats facing one another offer better travel experience, officials say

seats.

K-RIDE had floated a tender for procurement, operation and Maintenance of rolling stock on public-private partnership mode on

December 30, 2023. K-RIDE will be paying a fixed monthly rate to agencies for procurement and operations. As of now, three firms BEML, BHEL, and CAF/Spain have passed the tech-

nical qualification. The bids will be closed by May 2024. The stations are being built to occupy nine-coach trains.

Due to the fewer number of train stations, the BSRP is also expected to run faster than the metro. The increased speed has also been factored into the seating arrangements. Each rake would be able to carry 300 passengers with around 75 seating capacity. With over 148km and 57 stations, BSRP is expected to carry 9.84 lakh passengers per day by 2025.

The tender for the design of the depots has been awarded and land acquisition is in progress. All stations will also have platform screen doors which will be controlled by a Communication Train Control (CBTC) signalling system.

An idea ahead of its time

Teachers asked to be in premises half an hour before their class schedule to complete preparation and adhere to timetable

Sridhar Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

School teachers have received a new directive requiring them to be present on school premises thirty minutes prior to the start of classes. The Education Department has asked the teachers to be early so that they can complete necessary preparations, and adhere to the teaching timetable. The Department of School Education has provided guidelines for teachers to actively engage in improving teaching and learning quality. Teachers are encouraged to arrive earlier than scheduled and focus on delivering high-quality education.

"The teacher's role is crucial in monitoring children's physical, mental, intellectual, and social development to enhance their academic progress continuously. Therefore, every teacher must fulfill their responsibilities effectively and seek prior approval for leave. Headteachers and all teachers in each school are expected to report on time and work towards achieving quality education for children as per departmental guidelines and periodic instructions. The department takes attendance during school hours and unauthorised leave seriously. Teachers must not leave school premises without permission and should restrict their visits to Block Education Officer (BEO) or Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) offices during school hours. It's essential to monitor students' academic progress and take necessary actions accordingly," said Commissioner for Public Instruction BB Kaveri who added that headmasters/headmistresses must seek approval from education authorities before leaving school premises for any other work during school hours.

The Education Department has opted to conduct the teacher trans-



Teachers also have been asked to seek prior approval for leaves

Teachers must not leave school premises without permission and should restrict their visits to BEO or DDPI offices during school hours

—BB Kaveri, Public Instruction

fer process for 2024. Initially, the department attempted to implement the new Teacher Transfer Act for this year's transfers. However, due to time constraints, transfers will proceed under the old Act, with teachers instructed to submit

their applications accordingly.

This decision aligns with the Lok Sabha Election Code of Conduct currently in effect. "It's imperative that transfer authorities at all levels are well-versed in the Teacher Transfer Act and Rules. The department has directed the Competent Authority to adhere strictly to the Transfer Act/Rules-2020 and the Amendment 2022 while processing transfers.

A word of caution is issued regarding the potential for schedule changes due to technical or administrative reasons. It's advised to thoroughly understand departmental orders and execute the transfer process meticulously to avoid any discrepancies", said an official.

Kaveri added that any irregu-

larities found during the application approval or transfer counseling, breaching departmental guidelines, will lead to disciplinary action against the responsible authority as per regulations. If there are any issues, concerned parties are encouraged to reach out. The official commencement of the transfer process is scheduled for March 18, with a deadline for school zone identification until March 26. Further details can be obtained from the Karnataka Government Primary School Teachers' Association or the education department's website. Meanwhile, school associations have expressed gratitude to the Education Minister for issuing the transfer notification ahead of the elections.

Fencing of Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake has begun

In a promising turn of events for the Yele Mallappa Shetty (YMC) Lake, efforts to curb encroachment and illegal dumping have gained momentum with the initiation of a fencing project by the Minor Irrigation Department (MID). The sprawling lake, spanning over 500 acres, has long been a cherished recreational spot for residents and also a place for canoeing and kayaking, with state and national level players frequenting its waters.

The lake had been under stress of late after contractors, truck drivers, and tractor drivers had turned the southern stretch of the lake into a dumping ground for construction and demolition (C&D) material, posing a severe threat to its ecological integrity.

Fencing prevents encroachment by land developers, and others and helps demarcate lake boundaries

For years, concerned citizens, led by individuals like Balaji Raghotham, had tirelessly campaigned under the banner of 'Save YMC Lake', advocating for the restoration and preservation of this vital ecosystem. Their persistent efforts finally bore fruit as the MID stepped in to address the pressing issues plaguing the lake.

Raghotham expressed his satisfaction with the recent developments and said, "We have been carrying the Save YMC Lake campaign for many years. Illegal encroachments and daily dumping were pushing the lake to the brink. The fencing initiative offers a glimmer of hope, but it must be accompanied by continuous vigilance to prevent backsliding."

The fencing of lakes serves several crucial purposes in safeguarding these natural ecosystems. It prevents encroachment by land developers, illegal settlers, or businesses seeking to expand; it provides a physical barrier that delineates the boundaries of the lake, preventing unauthorised construction or occupation of its shores.

"The fencing of YMC Lake is not just about physical boundaries; it symbolises our commitment to protecting our natural heritage and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come," he added.

— Iffath Fathima



All that keeps wheels of democracy turning

Biggest peacetime movement of men, material in world

Holding of Lok Sabha elections is a mammoth exercise that entails the biggest peacetime movement of men and material in the world through waterways, air and land across India to ensure no voter is left behind.

The Election Commission, mandated to hold the gigantic democratic exercise, starts preparing for the polls at least one-and-a-half years in advance by training officials, poll personnel and ramping up the supply of required EVMs and indelible ink, besides other equipment.

The elections for the 18th Lok Sabha will begin on April 19 followed by subsequent phases on April 26, May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25 and June 1.

Nearly 97 crore registered voters across 543 constituencies will cast their ballot at 10.5 lakh polling stations.

As early as in June last year, the EC had initiated "first level checks" of EVMs and paper trail machines across the country in a phased manner.

"Mock polls" are part of the first level check (FLC) process to ensure parties are satisfied with the machines. The EC issues a calendar for such exercises and there are standing instructions that are to be followed by state chief electoral officers. During FLCs, electronic voting machines and paper trail machines are checked for mechanical flaws by engineers of BEL and



KAUSHIK JN

As model code of conduct comes into place, police officials were seen checking cars at Sajjan Rao Circle, on Sunday



“Around 1.5 crore polling and security personnel, about 55 lakh EVMs and four lakh vehicles will be deployed for the polls

—Election Commission

A key component of election management is the deployment of security personnel and their movement by trains, boats and helicopters.

While the EC is busy sending the required number of EVMs in states ahead of polls, the Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd gets ready to complete its order of providing indelible ink.

This time it has been tasked with providing over 26 lakh vials of indelible ink, which leaves a

deep purple mark on a voter's left forefinger, to various states.

The Karnataka government has been manufacturing the ink since 1962, solely for the Election Commission.

The ink is applied on the left forefinger of a person as proof that she or she has cast the vote. One 10 ml vial can ink 700 people. Every polling station has 1,500 voters, which means two vials of ink are needed per polling station.

—PTI

South K'taka braces for tight battle

The Vokkaliga heartland of the old Mysuru region consisting of several southern districts will be the testing ground for the recently forged BJP-JD(S) alliance in Karnataka in the Lok Sabha polls.

The ruling Congress will now look to consolidate its gains that it made in the assembly elections in May last year when it made inroads into the strongholds of the regional party headed by former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda in these districts.

In the 2019 Parliamentary elections, the Congress and JD(S) fought together but secured only one seat each in the state. The BJP bagged 25 out of the total 28 Lok Sabha seats.

The Congress and JD(S) win, in fact, came in the old Mysuru region -- Bangalore Rural and Hassan, respectively, while the Mandya seat went to an independent backed by the BJP.

This time, the JD(S) has an alliance with BJP. According to sources, the JD(S) is likely to be allotted Hassan, Mandya and Kolar seats in the region, from where Deve Gowda's party draws its strength from in Karnataka.

The JD(S) is now looking to bounce back after the drubbing it received in the May assembly polls.

The Congress and JD(S) are considered to be traditional rivals in the region, where the BJP has also been improving its vote-share.

The BJP-JD(S) alliance hopes to counter the Congress' surge in the region, determined to consolidate Vokkaliga votes in their favour and banking on the Modi charisma. Both parties also hope to gain from each other with this alliance.

The Congress is hoping to further its prospects and continue its dominance in the region, with the help of its strong local leadership and riding on its five guarantee schemes. Both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Congress state President D K Shivakumar, who is also the Deputy Chief Minister come from this region, and so does JD(S) patriarch Deve Gowda and his son H D Kumaraswamy, a former CM and that party's state President.

—PTI

Family 'pressure'

The candidacy of former Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology Director Dr CN Manjunath from Bengaluru Rural has ignited intrigue, as another member of the Deve Gowda family steps into the political arena. However, in defence of this unexpected entry, Dr. Manjunath's brother-in-law and former CM HD Kumaraswamy revealed a behind-the-scenes story. He recounted how Dr Manjunath's family members were initially reluctant, with his sister in tears and the doctor's son, Dr. Sathwik, questioning the decision to pull his father into politics against their wishes. Despite this resistance, Kumaraswamy disclosed that he was compelled by the BJP top leaders to persuade Dr. Manjunath to enter politics, a task he ultimately undertook.

Royal entrance

In a surprising turn of events, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, scion of the Wadiyar dynasty, made headlines by announcing his entry into politics with the saffron party. Just a day after the announcement, Wadiyar paid a visit to the home of

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

former CM BS Yediyurappa, before officially joining the party. When pressed by journalists about his decision to venture into politics, Wadiyar revealed, "The idea of stepping into politics had been brewing in my mind for over a year. Despite being a titular king, I am keen on serving the public, and political influence can aid me in working for the people. However, in my public service, I aim to remain grounded and relatable to the common man, stepping out of the comfort of my AC."

Duo divergence

With elections looming, the Congress party is ramping up its efforts to rally support through public events. It raised eyebrows that, up until now, most gatherings saw Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar side by side. However, lately, they've been making solo appearances. When asked by journalists about this apparent shift, Shivakumar explained, "As we all know, Lok Sabha dates

will soon be announced by the Election Commission, triggering the enforcement of the code of conduct. Therefore, we must unveil schemes beforehand. With time ticking away, both of us are hosting separate events to engage a broader audience."

Name game

Is there a connection between changing names for numerological reasons and luck? We don't know, but take the recent case of Mysuru MP Pratap Simha, who decided to alter the spelling of his name. Previously, his first name was spelt 'Prathap', but he opted to drop the 'h' and officially announced the change through a newspaper notification. Perhaps Simha hoped for a lucky streak in the LS polls, but fate had other plans. Nevertheless, insiders suggest that attributing his change in fortune solely to the spelling alteration might not be accurate.

Rebellion rises

The political drama in Karnataka took an

intriguing turn as veteran BJP leader KS Eshwarappa found himself at odds with the party after his son KE Kantesh was not named as the candidate for the Haveri parliamentary seat. This has led to Eshwarappa openly expressing his discontent and even hinting at the possibility of running as an independent candidate from Shivamogga to



challenge BS Yediyurappa's son BY Raghvendra. All eyes are now on Monday when Prime Minister Modi kicks off his campaign in Shivamogga. The big question looming is whether Eshwarappa will stand alongside Modi on the dais or continue his rebellion from the sidelines.

In a recent press conference, Eshwarappa received a call from a supporter speculating whether Modi would make a surprise visit to convince him to withdraw his rebellion. However, Eshwarappa's confidence was evident as he boldly declared that Modi would never visit his house, signaling that his rebellion is here to stay for the time being.

—Sridhar Vivan



WISHY WASHY

What washing machine settings can I use to make my clothes last a while longer?

Orbiting 400 kilometres above Earth's surface, the astronauts on the International Space Station live a pretty normal social life, if not for one thing: they happily wear their unwashed clothes for days and weeks at a time. They can't do their laundry just yet because water is scarce up there.

But down here on Earth, washing clothes is a large part of our lives. It's estimated that a volume of water equivalent to 21,000 Olympic swimming pools is used every day for domestic laundry worldwide.

Fibres from our clothes make their way into the environment via the air (during use or in the dryer), water (washing) and soil (lint rubbish in landfill). Most of this fibre loss is invisible – we often only notice our favourite clothing is “disappearing” when it's too late.

How can you ensure your favourite outfit will outlast your wish to wear it? Simple question, complex answer.

Washing machines are not gentle

When you clean the filters in your washing machine and dryer, how often do you stop to think that the lint you're holding was, in fact, your clothes?

Laundering is harsh on our clothes, and research confirms this. Several factors play a role: the type

of washing machine, the washing cycle, detergents, temperature, time, and the type of fabric and yarn construction.

There are two types of domestic washing machines: top-loader and front-loader. Mechanical agitation (the way the machine moves the clothes around) is one of the things that helps ease dirt off the fabric.

Top-loaders have a vertical, bucket-like basket with a paddle, which sloshes clothes around in a large volume of water. Front-loaders have a horizontal bucket which rotates, exposing the clothes to a smaller volume of water – it takes advantage of gravity, not paddles.

Top-loading machines tend to be more aggressive towards fabrics than front-loaders due to the different mechanical action and larger volumes of water.

Washing machine panels also present many choices. Shorter, low-temperature programs are usually sufficient for everyday stains. Choose longer or high-temperature programs only for clothing you have concerns about (healthcare uniforms, washable nappies, etc.).

Fibres from our clothes make their way into the environment via the air (during use or in the dryer), water (washing) and soil (lint rubbish in landfill)

Generally, washing machine programmes are carefully selected combinations of water volume, agitation intensity and temperature recommended by the manufacturer. They take into consideration the type of fabric and its level of cleanliness.

Select the wrong programme and you can say goodbye to your favourite top. For example, high temperatures or harsh agitation may cause some fibres to weaken and break, causing holes in the garment.

Some fabrics lose fibres more easily than others

At a microscopic level, the fabric in our clothes is made of yarns – individual fibres twisted together. The nature and length of the fibres, the way they are twisted and the way the yarns form the fabric can determine how many fibres will be lost during a wash.

In general, if you want to lose fewer fibres, you should wash less frequently, but some fabrics are affected more than others.

Open fabric structures (knits) with loose yarns can lose more fibres than tighter ones. Some sports

clothing, like running shirts, are made of continuous filament yarn. These fibres are less likely to come loose in the wash.

Cotton fibres are only a few centimetres long. Twisted tightly together into a yarn, they can still escape.

Wool fibres are also short, but have an additional feature: scales, which make wool clothes much more delicate. Wool fibres can come loose like cotton ones, but also tangle with each other during the wash due to their scales. This last aspect is what causes wool garments to shrink when exposed to heat and agitation.

Go easy on the chemicals

The type of detergent and other products you use also makes a difference.

Detergents contain a soap component, enzymes to make stains easier to remove at low temperature, and fragrances. Some contain harsher compounds, such as bleaching or whitening agents.

Modern detergents are very effective at removing stains such as food, and you don't need to use much.

An incorrect choice of wash cycles, laundry detergent and bleaching additives could cause disaster. Certain products, like bleach, can damage some fibres like wool and silk.

Meanwhile, research on fabric softeners and other treatments continues – there's no one-size-fits-all answer about their potential impact on our clothes.

Just skip laundry day

So, how to ensure your clothes last longer? The main tip is to wash them less often.

When it's time for a wash, carefully read and follow the care labels. In the future, our washing machines will recognise fabrics and select the wash cycle. For now, that's our responsibility.

And the next time you throw your shirt into the dirty laundry basket, stop. Think of the astronauts orbiting above Earth and ask yourself: if they can go without clean laundry for a few days, maybe I can too? (Although we don't recommend just burning your dirty undies, either.)

(By Alessandra Sutti, Amol Patil and Maryam Naebe, Deakin University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Olive oil benefits for hair

It moisturises your hair
If your hair has taken a dull form due to pollution or dry weather, you can reap some of the benefits of olive oil. Olive oil is not as cloudy or thick as other hair oils and is rich in moisturising properties. Some people also use olive oil as a replacement for conditioners. Regular use of olive oil on hair will give you smooth, frizz-free and shiny tresses.

Makes hair frizz-free
The most common reason behind frizzy hair is dryness. Manage are limp, frizzy and dry hair can be a real challenge. To restore your locks' luscious state, keep them well clean and healthy. Try doing olive oil hair spa at home for best results. This will nourish hair and scalp.

Smoothens hair
Not only dry hair can dampen your whole look, but they are also prone to damage caused by harmful sun rays and pollution. To add life to your dry tresses, olive oil is the safest bet. Not only does its rejuvenating properties help in locking moisture, but olive oil also deeply conditions your roots and promotes new soft and silky hair growth.

Eliminates dandruff
If you have dry and damaged hair, a flaky scalp could be a probable cause. However, another major downside of the flaky or sensitive scalp is dandruff, which also causes acne and breakouts. So one must promote a healthy scalp for healthy hair. Add a new lease of life to your scalp using olive oil and say goodbye to dandruff. You can use three parts olive oil with one part lemon juice for exfoliation purposes. Make sure not to use a lot of lemons as it is acidic and natural and could damage hair and lead to split ends.

Prevent split ends
To prevent split ends, right after a shower or hair wash, take a tiny bit of olive oils in your hands and run it through your damp hair.

Femina

MIRRORLIGHTS

Guide to upcycling your worn-out jeans

Our bodies change in myriad ways as time passes on and so do our go-to-fits. Maybe your old Levi's which saw you through your University days doesn't fit you anymore. There is a way to keep its presence in your life by upcycling it. Rather than throwing the material away, you may use it in many other ways.

If you are crafty and have just a beginner level of sewing experience you can take it up as a project. Of course, if you feel the need to stitch the product further in a professional way you can visit the boutique in your neighborhood.

Listing below the unique ways

you can transform those worn-out jeans –

Corset

The DIY corset can become a new great trendy addition to your closet. You may check the patterns online and note down your measurements. If you don't feel comfortable with playing with patterns then use your T-shirt to measure. Just make sure you are snatching it at the waist just right.

A Tote Bag

A tote bag can become a chic addi-



tion and uplift your look. Designing a tote bag is simple and you can create unique patterns as per your requirements. If you are into embroidery or zardozi you can sew some lyrical verses or create intricate designs. You may also expand your horizons and try making a sling bag or a cute duffle bag.

Earrings

Add that element of edginess to your jewelry treasure trove with earrings made with upcycled jeans. You may go for tassel and circular patterns or create a unique statement piece.

A Plant and Stationary Holder

To make the plant/stationery holder you have to work with the lower part of the jeans moreover. You can also tuck some quirky add-ons into the plant holder.

Patchwork Design

This can simply level up your living room decor. You may cut those strips of jeans, cut them out in different shapes, and viola! You have a great patchwork design. (Tip – You may use the pockets to slide in those letters or brochures)

Don't be afraid to immerse yourself in this newfound love of upcycling.

— Vrushali Khadilkar, Femina

No ABC facility at Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) is a WHO-endorsed public safety programme directed by the Supreme Court and it has to be driven diligently and capably by the BBMP without any deviations, violations and irregularities.

"The BBMP animal husbandry department must change its decision to implement the microchip project and provide thrust to geotags which is more viable and economical than microchips. It will be tough to procure microchip readers. We have successfully completed a pilot to geotag over 100 stray as well as pet dogs," said Satish Rao, a social activist.

The animal activists said the first and foremost duty of the BBMP, under the stressful scenario that the general public and the street dogs are going through, is to conduct safer, secure and more accountable animal birth control programmes, provide vaccinations to the dogs and ensure no cruelty happens to them at any cost.

"The BBMP authorities must take measures to conduct ABC programmes as per the guidelines. I came to know about the lack of ABC facilities at Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones. The BBMP should fix this problem as early as possible," said Sujaya Jagadish, SPCA member.

Animal activists said street dogs in the city are put through intense suffering due to lack of proper ABC facilities and by making them travel long distances for surgery under stressful conditions. They noted the focus and top priority of BBMP should be to provide good infrastructure, safe transportation and care for dogs undergoing surgery.

"Stray dogs from Mahadevapura zone are being transported to Yelahanka for the ABC programme. The distance between Mahadevapura and Yelahanka is too much and it will be tough for the strays to cope with such a long transportation schedule.

Some of the dog catchers are not following the standard operating procedure (SOP) while transporting stray dogs from one place to another for the ABC programme. I do not know what the BBMP animal husbandry department authorities are doing without focusing on ensuring the SOP," said Arun Prasad.

Animal lovers said five out of the eight BBMP zones have been given sub-standard, improvised, cramped, and risky makeshift facilities to conduct ABC programmes.

"This is in complete violation of the Supreme Court's orders, Animal Welfare Board of India guidelines and directives," said an animal activist.

Water crisis presents pressing challenge, say industry players

The water crisis in Bengaluru presents a pressing challenge exacerbated by rapid urbanisation and population growth, and the city described as 'Silicon Valley of India,' will need to take interim as well as long term measures including mandatory water harvesting and groundwater recharging to overcome the crisis, says the industry.

The tech heartland of India and home to IT giants like Infosys, Wipro, as well as well-known start-ups, has been hit by a crippling water outage that has left taps dry across parts of the city just weeks ahead of general elections.

The water crisis in Bengaluru presents a daunting challenge exacerbated by rapid urbanisation and population growth, and it is impacting households as also the IT and tech hubs' operations, say city residents who are facing stringent water restrictions.

Local residents and industry blame the severe water shortage on rapid urbanisation without proper planning, unequal and improper distribution, poor water management and negligence by local authorities.

"The issue is real. Whereas societies got full-day water flow earlier, now water is available only for half of the day. Almost half of the city is grappling with water

shortage," a local resident said.

Videos, on social media platforms, show residents struggling to get water for their basic necessities. Water rationing, housing society advisories to use water sparingly, and people skipping work to make it to long queues for stocking up on essential water supply, underline the grim reality for this bustling tech hub.

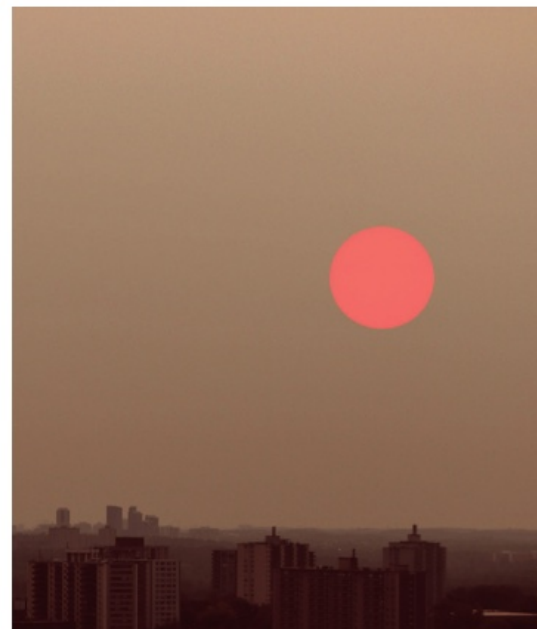
Founder and CEO of Matrimony.com, Murugavel Janakiraman, suggested mandatory water harvesting to solve the crisis.

The issue can be solved by taking steps towards reducing water consumption, recycling, rejuvenating and creating water bodies to increase groundwater levels, and the government facilitating water supply," he said.

"Companies have started giving work from home, as employees refuse to come to office citing water shortage. This is of course impacting operations because there is a whole new setup that needs to be done to cater to the sudden shift," co-founder and CEO of Kuku FM, Lal Chand Bisu said.

People are going to nearby malls to fulfil basic daily needs, said another resident, underlining the severity of the water crisis. "Prices of water tankers have more than doubled, from around Rs 2500 for a tanker earlier, to now about Rs 5,000 for the same," Bisu lamented. PTI

Winter peak value of PM2.5 at 92µg/m3



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and thus poorer air quality. "Chennai has cleaner air due to its proximity to the ocean, apart from efficient air pollution mitigation measures in place. Although Bengaluru too has the geographical advantage of altitude, this is diminishing due to exponential growth in vehicles. The city does not have road infrastructure to support such a large fleet of vehicles. Roads are also in bad shape, reducing vehicular speed, leading to higher emission," said professor Gufran Beig, chair professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).

The analysis showed Bengaluru registered a decrease in winter PM2.5 concentration level by 7% compared to the previous winter.

Air quality experts told BM that this year's winter months witnessed above-normal minimum and maximum temperatures due to the El Nino effect, and thus the concentration of pollutants has been lower.

"This year, winter has not been as intense as last year due to the El Nino effect, and thus pollutant levels are lower than last year. However, this drop should not be considered as an improvement in the overall air quality of the city," said a city-based researcher.

Apart from Bengaluru, other cities in the southern part of the country that have registered a drop in PM2.5 concentration include Hyderabad (regis-

tered a two per cent decrease), Chennai (15 per cent decrease), and Thiruvananthapuram (18 per cent decrease). Kalaburagi, Belgaum, and Kochi registered an improvement in access of 40 per cent.

The report underlined that the winter pollution challenge is an omnipresent problem and requires urgent and deliberate action everywhere. This requires quicker reforms and action in key sectors of pollution – vehicles, industry, power plants, and waste management to control winter pollution and bend the annual air pollution curve.

Karnataka scenario

As per the analysis, Karnataka, with some less polluted cities on its report card, turned out to be one of the cleanest states in the country with a winter PM2.5 average concentration of 32µg/m3. Chamarajanagar, Vijayapura, and Kalaburagi in Karnataka were featured among the top five cleanest cities this winter. Mysuru was the cleanest major city. However, Bidar has been regarded as the most polluted city in the state with a winter average of 60.1 µg/m3 and winter peak of 100 µg/m3.

However, when looked at only southern states, most cities that register an increase in average concentration are located in Karnataka. Madikeri registered a 33% increase and Chikkamagaluru registered a 26% increase in winter PM2.5 average concentration.

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personal

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I, Brijitha Chandini R/o No.20, Lake view Apt. Beside Kodichikkanahalli, Bengaluru 560068 have changed my name to Brijitha Chandini Krupakara Affidavit Dt.16/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Prashant Shantilal Punamia R/o R.D. 505 Purva Riviera Apartments, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my minor son's name from Samit Prashant Punamia to Samit Punamia.

I, Nalinikadam R W/O, Ramesh Kumar V R/o No 1 A Block 1st Cross Kaveri Nagar Bangalore North R T Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name to Nalini Ramesh.

I, Arshiya Tabassum D/O, Ponnakkhi Mohammed Khalid Ahmed R/o 412, 14th Main Road, Mc Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040 have changed my name to Arshiya Tabassum Ponnakkhi Khalid.

I, Shreya D/O, Sharad Saxena R/o 1402, Sobha Mayflower, Green Glen Layout, Bellandur have changed my name to Shreya Saxena.



GALLERIA

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್, ವಿವಿಧ ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಸುವರ್ಣಾಕಾಶ

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Happy and excited

Mamatha Rahuth, who won best actress award at Rajasthan International Film Festival, is flying high after her latest movie Tharini won accolades and awards at various film festivals. Mamatha plays the lead in Tharini, a film about the ill-effects of female foeticide on society.

"I consider Tharini to be a precious gift from my husband, who bankrolled it. I am lucky to get this opportunity – to play a pregnant character while being pregnant – and it will not



only help me but also conveys a message to society on the importance of girls," says Mamatha. Stating that facing the camera was not an easy task, Mamatha said the director and producer had made all arrangements for her on shooting locations and script till she was seven months pregnant.

"Though I was on cloud nine for getting this rare chance, my parents and friends chided me for such a decision. But, now I am happy with the outcome of the movie," she said. Prior to this, she has acted in the movies Goolihatti, Calling Bell, and Punathigitturu. "I have been associated with Sandalwood for more than a decade. Some of the movies I acted in are women-oriented movies," she said.

In the role of a hero

Sagar Puranik, who got a national award in his maiden attempt as a director, is all set to become a hero in Sandalwood by playing the lead in Venkya. Sagar is also assigned to direct the movie. Its shooting began at Siddharoodha Math in Hubballi.

"I am holding two responsibilities – playing the lead as well as direction. I wrote the script more than two years ago and have improvised it till date. I thought that I am apt to play the lead for this script. It is based on North Karnataka and it will have all the elements including romance, sentiment, and action. I thank producer Pawan Wadeyar for bankrolling this movie and also my father for his



blessings and encouragement to play the lead role," said Sagar.

Sagar said that he wanted to become an actor apart from handling the megaphone. "I am happy to have realised my long-cherished dream of becoming an actor. My father too wanted me to prove my acting skills. I am leaving no stone unturned to make Venkya a wholesome entertainment for two or two-and-a-half hours," he said.

Prior to this, he directed the movie Dollu that won a national award.

Strictly speaking

Tabu has witty response to why she often plays stern characters



Tabu, known for her versatile acting, often portrays strict characters in her films. Recently, during an event for the movie Crew, where she stars alongside Kareena Kapoor and Kriti Sanon, Tabu shared a witty response when asked about this trend in her roles.

She humorously remarked, "It seems like filmmakers hire me to scold people in movies. Either I'm making characters swear or giving them a good scolding in every film."

In Crew's trailer, Tabu's character is shown using strong language, but reports suggest that these scenes have been altered in the final cut due to censorship regulations.

The event also saw Kriti Sanon being showered with love from fans, to which she responded with a blush, saying it wasn't planned. Kareena Kapoor, on the other hand, playfully rejected the title of a consolation prize when fans expressed their admiration for her.

Crew, set to release on March 29, marks the first collaboration of Kareena Kapoor, Tabu, and Kriti Sanon.

The movie's trailer has already received a positive response for its mix of humor and camaraderie among the lead characters, who portray air hostesses dealing with their airline's financial troubles.

Tabu's knack for portraying stern characters adds depth to her roles and showcases her versatility as an actor. Despite her on-screen persona, she is known to be warm and friendly off-screen, making her a beloved figure in the industry.

-ETimes

Action time

Actor Vaani Kapoor on Thursday said she feels blessed to have got the opportunity to try her hand at the action genre through the series 'Mandala Murders', which marks her streaming debut.

Created and directed by Gopi Puthran of 'Mardaani 2' fame, 'Mandala Murders' stars Kapoor and Vaibhav Raj Gupta ('Gullak') as detectives trying to solve a series of murders that may be part of a sinister plan orchestrated by a secret society.

Kapoor, best known for films such as 'Shuddh Desi Romance' and 'War', said she is thrilled about exploring the OTT medium with 'Mandala Murders'.

"It is a series and it's my first series. It's the first time I'm venturing into the digital arena with YRF and Netflix, it's a proud moment. I've never done action, crime, or thriller genre. I'm excited that I got this opportunity," the actor said.

She also added she has been an ardent fan of shows in the murder mystery and crime-thriller genres.

"This is the first time I got the opportunity to get into the psyche, navigating through a maze of intrigue and suspense. It was edge of the seat... like what will happen next... that kind of a series," she added.

-ETimes

Shades of emerald

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, who was recently seen in the film 'Sukhee', defines fitness and fashion like no one else.

The actress took to her Instagram, and shared pictures of her latest outfit.

In the pictures, the actress can be seen rocking the emerald colour. She sported an emerald coloured outfit, which she paired with a cream coloured shroud with floral patterns.

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who is known for 'Super Deluxe', took to the comments section and lauded Shilpa's choice of outfit. She wrote, "Wow".

Fans also gave a thundering response to the actress. One fan wrote: "Queen you always look so good (sic)." Another wrote, "Wow looking so beautiful gorgeous (sic)."



Diana is huge fan of chic Kate

Bollywood actress Diana Penty has talked about how she fan girls over Hollywood star Kate Moss and her chic fashion.

Diana, who started her career as a model, walked the ramp as a

showstopper at Lakmé Fashion Week x FDCI for designer duo Charu and Vasundhara.

Talking to IANS about a fashion icon she's fond of, Diana said: "I am a huge fan of Kate Moss. I think she is super chic and effortless and got this boho vibe going on."

"She's so hot. I don't know if I can play her onscreen but I am a huge fan of hers."

Diana then spoke about her fashion sensibilities and called it "minimal, effort-

less, easy comfortable and chic."

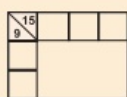
She added: "That's my vibe. For me comfort is everything. I dress accordingly so that I can be super chill, easy and comfortable during my day out."

The actress will soon be seen sharing screen space with cine icon Amitabh Bachchan in the film 'Section 84', which is directed by Ribhu Dasgupta, who had directed Amitabh in 'Yudh' and 'Te3n'. -IANS



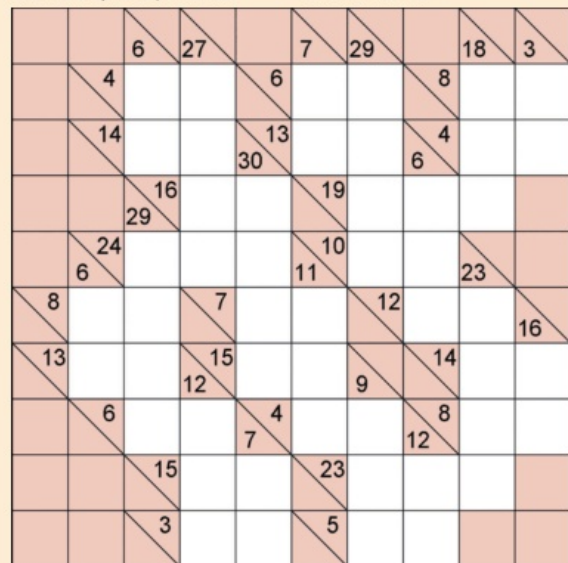
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

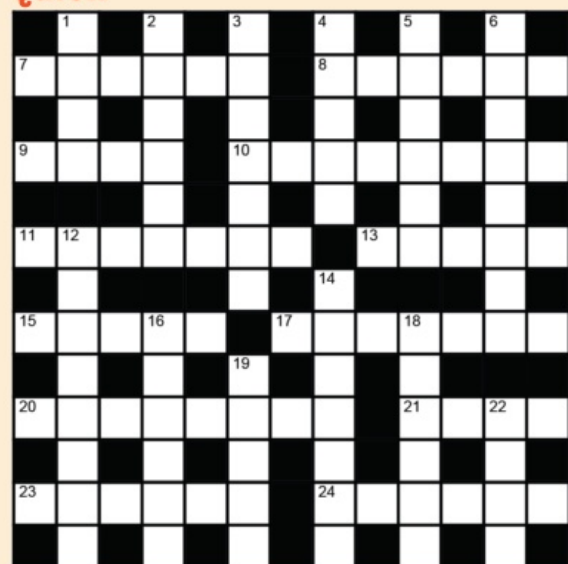


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Japanese number puzzle (6)
- 8 Lower-leg joints (6)
- 9 Indonesian island (4)
- 10 Left-hander (8)
- 11 Nassau's island (7)
- 13 ____ Thomas : famous poet? (5)
- 15 Take up as one's own (5)
- 17 Financial plans (7)
- 20 Waves or flaps quickly and irregularly? (8)
- 21 Dog breed: Lhasa ____ (4)
- 23 A dance epic (6)
- 24 Learner driver must display this (1-5)

DOWN

- 1 American cat (4)
- 2 Capital of Nagaland (6)
- 3 Putin's compatriot (7)
- 4 The full range (5)
- 5 Bollywood's ____ Kumar (6)
- 6 Placed in a separated grouping (3,5)
- 12 Omar of J&K (8)
- 14 ____ Market: Market in Shivajinagar (7)
- 16 Parts of flowers (6)
- 18 Happily or willingly (6)
- 19 Waste tract of land (5)
- 22 Mother of Luv and Kush (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS W
HES AUW ZEOVE ZS JSUG
UR CLG YURH OR FLH HES
FOGHEAUW CJ SHSGMOHW.



Linemaro

When I first saw you I looked for a signature, because every masterpiece has one



Mindchow

The least movement is of importance to all nature. The entire ocean is affected by a pebble



Joke of the day

Before Instagram, I used to waste so much time sitting around having to imagine what my friends' food looked like

Loop

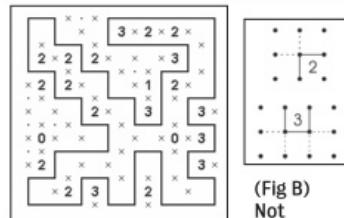
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

How to begin:

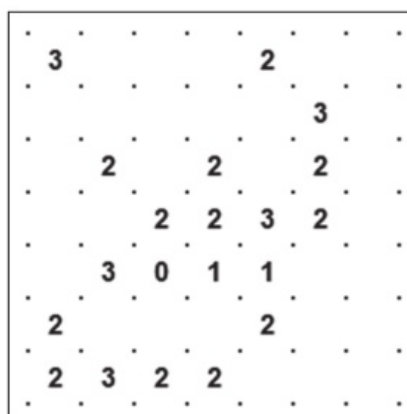
Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

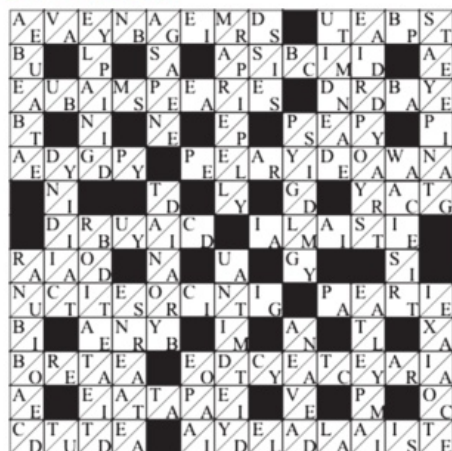


(Fig A)

(Fig B)
Not Allowed



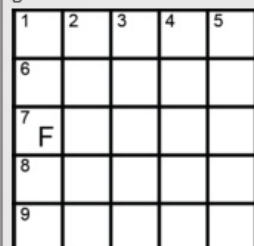
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

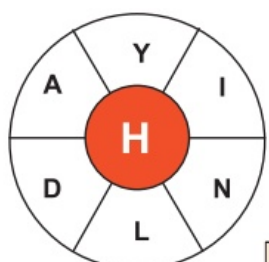
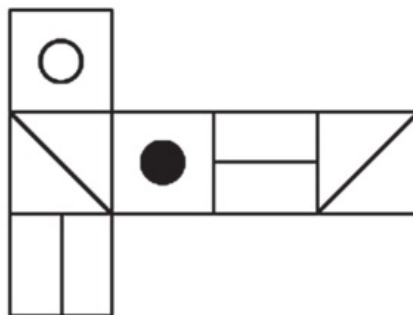
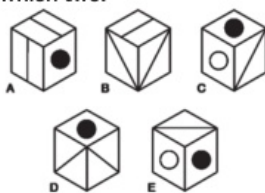
- 1 Bears; 6 Baler;
- 7 A a fun; 8 Sayer;
- 9 Bales

DOWN

- 1 A fess; 2 A A Bay;
- 3 Rub LB; 4 Learn;
- 5 Saree

Mensapuzzle

When the right is folded to form a cube, just two of the following can be produced. Which two?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$3 \times 5 + 8 = 23$

Medium

$2 \times 3 + 7 = 13$

Hard

$5 \times 9 + 5 = 50$

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bell is larger. 2. Button is missing. 3. Belt loop is moved. 4. Glasses are missing. 5. Top of chimney is different. 6. Frame around window is missing.

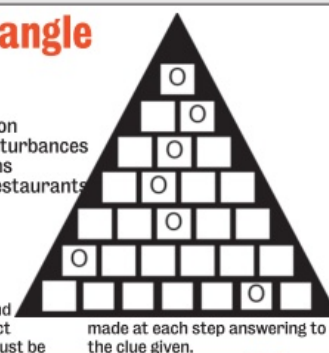
Riddler

The five words in the group below have something special in common. Transform each of the following five words, so as to create a group of five new words, by applying exactly the same change to each word. come, diploma, forge, star, though

Alpha triangle

- 1 Circular letter
- 2 Infinitive word
- 3 Decay
- 4 Computer function
- 5 Violent public disturbances
- 6 Paths of electrons
- 7 Small informal restaurants

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



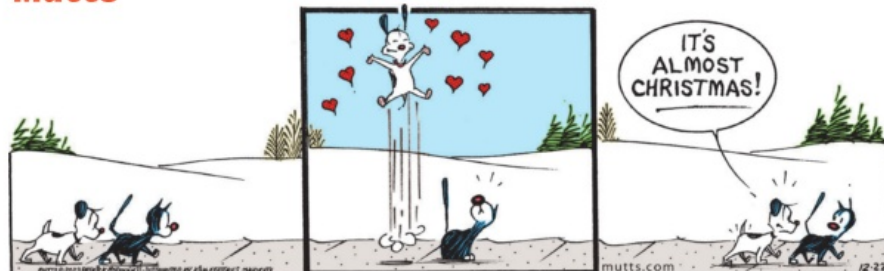
Hart of the city



Crankschaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you may have some peace in your mind. You are not in a hurry, which may reflect on your way of working. Your destiny may help you complete your postponed projects and targets. You may show patience in your domestic life to maintain harmony in it. You may have some skin or stomach-related issues.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

You may be happy due to a blessing from an auspicious planetary combination. You may have some sort of energy, which may increase your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, your tendency to overspend may likely affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself at work and on the domestic front, and you should avoid lending money. You should postpone making important decisions in real estate and other asset issues and avoid a tendency to elevate yourself from your responsibilities.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may be a victim of negative thoughts and may feel dull. Impatience and arrogance may hinder you from taking difficult decisions. You may seek the blessings of your elders, which will help you grow in your work. You should avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds shall avoid discussing bad moments.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may have a dull start to the day, but you may control negativity in the late evening. At work, you may connect with new people, and you may try to revamp your business plans with their help. It is advised to read documents before submitting your signature.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today you may be more happy; internal vitality will boost your self-confidence, and you may feel relaxed after a sound sleep. You should avoid carelessness in making decisions in terms of finance, profession, and studies. You should be patient to avoid conflicts and be careful in making decisions regarding finance, profession, and studies. You may enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today is good for your work, and you may be able to perform well. Your boss may likely give you some new responsibilities. Disputes with the partner may be settled. You may lend money to build your assets. Your kids' health may improve, and you may likely make some investments for their future.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, with the help of blessings, you may control your indecisiveness. Kids' health has improved. Your colleagues may be supportive of your work, which will yield success in terms of the project. You may expect to get some incentives with the salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, art, culture, and homemakers may perform well.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life; there may be good understanding between you and your spouse. Natives related to metal and booking agents will perform better.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Love would be in the air in terms of personal life, and singles may find a suitable match. With your friends and subordinate staff's support, you may do better in terms of your professional life. Investments in gems and jewellery are likely to yield positive gains in the near future. Be careful of your elders' health.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may be busy with domestic issues and may also plan to visit some desired place with family or friends. You may become more polite with others. You may take an interest in artefacts, movies, and fashion, which may enhance your creativity, and you may spend money on buying some artefacts and household items to boost your social status.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may be passionate about work. You should avoid mixing your brain with your heart when making important decisions. It is advised to follow your intuition before making some decisions related to business, jobs, and investments. You may have workload, but blessings from elders may help you control this messy situation.



KIDZONE



Simran Rao, 10 Years, Sri Aurbindo Memorial School

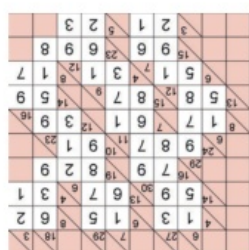


Shriya U S, 6 Years, Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir

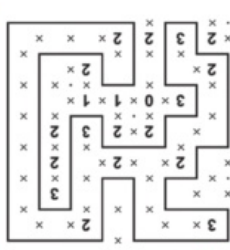
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror; No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;

Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

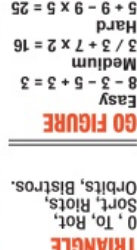
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



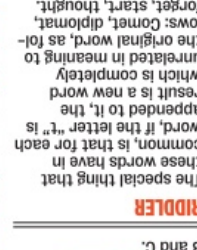
LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULLS' EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

REDEFINING POWER AND EFFICIENCY WITH STRONG HYBRID TECHNOLOGY.

CREATE. INSPIRE.

**FASTEST
1 LAKH
SALES***
IN THE SEGMENT



**INTELLIGENT
ELECTRIC**  **HYBRID**

**1200+ km
IN ONE FULL TANK***

THE ADVANCED
GRAND VITARA
RULE EVERY ROAD



PANORAMIC SUNROOF



VENTILATED SEATS



6 AIRBAGS



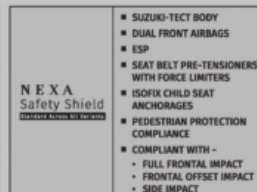
EV MODE



SMARTPLAY PRO+



DIGITAL MULTI-INFORMATION DISPLAY



**NEXA
Safety Shield**
*Features and accessories shown may not be part of standard fitment. Black glass shade on the vehicle is due to lighting effect. Images used are for illustration purposes only.

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